

Clergy-in-Charge Report
November 22, 2022

October at Holy Cross was a month of continuing to settle into our new neighborhood and worship space at JCo, and to re-establish and revitalize many of the essential ministries that go into both our Sunday worship services and our work outside the church in the community. We began the month with a service of Blessing of Animals, which was also the culmination of the Season of Creation observances. Many in the congregation took advantage of the invitation to bring pictures of their pets for blessings, although we did have a few live pets join us on the patio as well. Following that service, we returned to using Eucharistic Prayer A for the remainder of the liturgical year, and began to incorporate chanting into the prayer which has been well received by the congregation. We finished October with a service that included reading of names of the departed and preparation of table of remembrance, as part of a week that included our first weekday Eucharist at JCo on All Saints Day. Many participated in preparing and contributing photos for the table, and the result was a lovely new tradition that we can hopefully carry forward into future years.

October was also a month to prepare for November's upcoming pledge campaign. I worked with our Stewardship Committee chair to plan the messaging and process of the campaign, and reached out to many people on our congregational roster that we had not heard from in some time. While we have not seen many of these folks joining us in-person on Sundays, we have had a steady stream of visitors and even new members joining us, and our attendance numbers, while small, have remained consistent.

I also participated in several ecumenical and interfaith events and campaigns during October. I worked with a group of clergy from the North County Clergy Coalition to draft an op-ed in response to hateful anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric that was expressed at a Encinitas Union School District meeting in late October. I also attended a training on recognizing and confronting antisemitism for faith leaders put on by the Anti-Defamation League at Temple Solel in Encinitas. Both were great opportunities to connect with and work together with other faith leaders in our area for the cause of inclusion and welcome, something that is near and dear to the heart and mission of Holy Cross.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Brian Petersen